

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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## NEW PRIMARY LAW IS INTERPRETED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

C. S. Wagner, assistant attorney general, has rendered an opinion which interprets the new primary law so that the average voter can understand its provisions. This opinion was made so that some of the confusion attached would be removed. Here is what he says the law really provides and means;

On Monday, August 24, 1914, will be held the first general primary nominating election in this state under the law initiated and passed by the people at the last general election. This law provides the only and exclusive method whereby a candidate of any existing political party for public office may have his name printed on the official ballot at the succeeding November election. The law, however, does not apply to persons seeking public office who are not members of any political party, but who, nevertheless, desire to run for office on an independent, non-partisan ticket; such persons are not concerned in the primary election law, for the procedure to be followed in such cases is printed in Section 524 of the Revised Codes of 1907, and their names may be printed upon the official general election ballot only in the manner as has been customary in the past. The idea sought to be conveyed is that the primary election law applies to political party candidates and to none other.

No qualified voter in this state will be permitted to vote at the primary election unless his name appears upon the official precinct register of his residence on election day. Those who were registered and voted at the last general election will not be required again to register. In fact after a man once registers he will not again be required to register as the law now stands, so long as he maintains his residence and votes at every general or special November election held in his county.

If, however, any voter heretofore registered failed to vote at the general election in 1912 or has since changed his residence he must visit the county clerk, if he resides within ten miles of the county seat, or a justice of the peace or notary public if he resides a greater distance therefrom, and again take the proper steps to re-register. Registration books for forthcoming primary election will be closed throughout the state on Saturday, July 25, and thereafter no one will be permitted to register for the August election.

When the voter enters the booth to vote he will be handed as many ballots as there may be political parties having candidates for nomination in the field. These ballots will be securely fastened together and from the number the voter may detach only the one of his party, which ever it may be, and when he has marked it, and is ready to vote, he will return to the judges the unmarked ballots as well as the one he has voted; the former will be deposited by the judges in the blank ballot box and the latter in the official ballot box.

The names of all aspirants for party nominations will appear on the ballots in alphabetical order, and there is no limit to the number of names which may thus appear, the only condition being that the candidate for nomination

has previously taken the necessary steps to insure his name appearing there. It will thus be seen that one may not vote a split ticket at a primary election. True, the law recognizes his right to vote for any person whose name is printed on the official ballot and will permit him to write in the name of any person for whom he decides to vote.

Party nominees, under the new law are now required to wage battle in two campaigns: the first, a sort of free-for-all scramble for nominations and the second for the office at the general election as of old. The staid old convention system with its much maligned and more or less fabled wire-pulling and intrigue, has made way for the new and, in this state, untried method of placing party nominations directly in the hands of the people. Buttonholing in the future by over-zealous and designing politicians will be with the voter and not with the convention delegate. The candidate for nomination is required in the first instance to file a copy of his nomination petition signed by himself in the office of the secretary of state, if for a state office or district comprising more than one county, or for judge of a district court; and if for county office or office for a district within one county the copy of petition is to be filed with the county clerk of the proper county.

Within the week preceding any biennial primary election each registered voter will receive through the mails a series of pamphlets equal in number to the political parties having candidates in the field. The size of these pamphlets will be six by nine inches, but the number of pages each will contain must be left to conjecture, for all depends on the number of candidates in the field seeking nomination. These pamphlets will be illuminated with the portraits of the office seekers, coupled with arguments in favor of each specifically enumerating his good points and advancing reasons why each should be elected to the same political office. Each candidate may have not less than a full page, or if he is financially able to pay therefor, he may have as many as four pages of matter depicting his good qualities.

If, however, he be a seasoned politician it is more than likely that he will have made enemies in the past, in which event there may appear next to his statement an argument directly opposing his nomination over the signature of the enemy. Thus the voter will be supplied with the pros and cons of the candidate. If he be unacquainted with the numerous men from whom he must choose he may as a last resort find guidance in the literary argumentative statements, or perchance rely alone on the portraits and from them select one depicting in somber mien the smiling likeness of the sacrificial man who looks most like the one having public office thrust upon him rather than an avaricious solicitor for favor at the public pie counter!

No more will the voter be pestered on election day with cheap cigars and clandestine booze canteen or other underhanded strategem calculated by oily men to intimidate, influence or sway the

voter, for under the primary law a new era of political freedom is dawning. The man who on election day shall ask, solicit or in any way try to induce or persuade the voter to vote or refrain from voting for any candidate, or the candidates or ticket of any political party or any measure submitted to the people will be guilty of crime and subject to severe punishment.

As to city, county and district elections, the new primary law may serve a distinct advantage over the convention system so long in vogue, but its practical workability as regards state elections is more or less problematical. As to the former the relative merit of candidates for nomination will be known in most instances much better than in the case of persons who must

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## LARGE CROWD HEARS SHAW

A large and appreciative audience greeted Prof. Shaw Tuesday afternoon at the opera house to hear his talk on "Farming and Dairying." With Prof. Shaw came O. C. Gregg of Minnesota, who needs no introduction to most farmers, Prof. Cooley of the agricultural college, and other speakers secured by the farmers' institute division of the college who, are now holding meetings in many sections of Montana.

Prof. Shaw is an easy talker, one who puts his audience in excellent humor right at the start, and who talks in a strain anyone can readily understand. He preferred to talk to the farmers from the floor of the opera house rather than from the platform and got right next to his hearers and told them of the mistakes they are making and how to correct them.

At the outset he began by asking for information, saying that he would be unable to advise them unless he knew their troubles and after being informed that the principal industry was raising wheat, and that the price received per bushel at Ravalli was about 58 cents, with a 22 mile wagon haul, and that eggs in winter brought 40 to 50 cents per dozen, he inquired with earnestness, "Why don't you raise eggs?" The question answered itself. He told them of the absolute uselessness of attempting to make money raising any kind of grain for the market and advised the farmers to grow chickens, pork and dairy products. To do this successfully he said that it would require three things, pasture, winter feed and grain. Pasture could be secured by sowing one of several kinds of grasses, including alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, and winter rye. All these different kinds would afford excellent pasture for both hogs and cattle and with corn for fodder for winter use, and such grain as they all should be able to raise on their farms, the problem of feed would be solved. With chickens, hogs and a few cows he thought that our farmers should have no trouble in making a living and a profit, but with strictly grain raising for the market the result would be a failure here just as it has been everywhere else the attempt has been made. Taken from every angle, Prof. Shaw's talk was directly to the point and contained many good ideas and suggestions

for our farmers to seriously consider.

He was followed by W. J. Woods, a South Dakota farmer who told of his and his neighbors' experience in a dry farming section, equally as dry as the Flathead, with an altitude of over 4,000 feet. He says they raised hogs for the market and drove them 18 miles or more to market at a profit, with hog cholera making some ravages in their swine herds. He said they did it by having pastures of sweet clover and alfalfa and very little grain to finish them off. His talk was a good one also and shows what intelligent farming will do under really adverse conditions.

Dr. Hartman of the agricultural college staff, made a short talk on hog cholera and its prevention.

## RONAN DEMOCRATS BECOMING ACTIVE

Victory is the element which creates greater enthusiasm than anything else, and the Ronan democrats are becoming alert to the importance of keeping their organization alive and working.

It has been so infrequent that they have enjoyed the result of an election, and feeling that to renew and continue the battle is a large part of the fight, they met last Thursday evening to elect officers for the ensuing year. Not that they received much recognition two years ago when the selection of candidates was being made, but because they are democrats and intend to stand by their colors, come what may. They have hopes, however, that at a primary election, now that Montana has discarded the boss-controlled convention system and relegated to the background the wire pulling and convention corrupting politician, some of their number may draw a lucky number and be selected to serve the people at the county seat. To further this hope and to be ready to do their part they have organized for the campaign which will soon be inaugurated in Missoula county.

From the number in attendance there must be a number willing to sacrifice themselves for the good of their party. Fifty now adorn the list of members and while all who were in attendance may not be active candidates, it is not thought there will be any difficulty encountered in securing enough to fill all the places on the ticket if necessary.

Local matters, it is true, may have been the cause of such a large number turning out last Thursday evening. All is not entire harmony even among the victorious hosts of the under-riders. To hold the whip hand and be looked upon as the true leaders of the party may have spurred some of the expectant ones, and still it may have been other and more personal motives which added to the attendance. But be that as it may, they had a great meeting and joy was unconfined. It was a regular love feast.

Immediately upon the meeting being called to order, the harmony feature was as plain as the new tariff bill. It was proposed to change the name and call the organization the "Reservation Democratic Club," and Pat Normandeau to show that he did not wish to cause any embarrassment to his competitor, suggested that if such a change occurred it

## MINERAL COUNTY PETITIONS ARE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

Petitions containing 454 names were filed with County Clerk Babbington last Saturday of people living in the west end of Missoula county along the Couer d'Alene branch, asking for the creation of Mineral county. It was stated that out of all the voters asked to sign the petition only 12 refused.

This fact would indicate that the sentiment in that section is very much in favor of the new county and that the final result of the election when called will never be in doubt.

With a revenue such as the new county will be able to collect and with men identified with the country to spend it, they should receive value for the money they pay as taxes. This they assert they have not received in years past. It is stated that the total revenue for general county expense will be above \$60,000 on a levy the same as they are now paying, and with economy in county expenditures they should be able to reduce the levy to a much less amount than they are now paying.

might be confused with the Reservation Land & Lumber Co., and to avoid this being done the meeting voted to not change the name. Then it was decided to reorganize so that everybody present might be entitled to vote—and then, too, new members are expected to pay their dues in advance, and that gets the money. After everybody had paid up and signed the roll, officers were elected without any serious trouble and here they are:

John N. Bailey, president; Pat Normandeau, 1st vice-president; W. G. Brown, 2nd vice president; John S. McVey, 3rd vice president; W. B. Ackerman, 4th vice president; A. Sutherland, secretary, and Geo. Covalt, treasurer. An executive committee of nine was selected as follows: Stanley Seearce, chairman; A. J. Swanson, H. N. Carper, F. W. Delaney, D. D. Hull, H. R. Larson, Ross Lemire, M. F. Suiter, and last but not least, Iver M. Brandjord.

It was voted to hold monthly meetings on the last Thursday of each month and to furnish entertainment of some description it was decided to appoint a committee to arrange a sport program and Ross Lemire, D. N. Mason and Wm. Engle were selected.

County Treasurer E. H. McCarthy was making hay while the weather was good and his beaming smile was present—also a box of smokes.

## RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS TO FIGHT WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The daily press last week stated that the saloon men of Butte were organizing to fight the amendment to be voted on at the November election, granting women the right to vote. The news item stated that the saloon men viewed the matter in the light of an attack on their business and that to prevent the women voting them out of business when they were granted the suffrage, they (the saloon men) would make an effort to prevent the women from being allowed to vote at all.

That is one of the best argu-

ments ever advanced why the women of the country should be granted the suffrage. When their influence is always for the advancement of better conditions and opposed to the element engaged in the liquor business there should not be any hesitation on the part of the voters in extending to them the right to have a say in the regulation of civic matters.

The women are fortunate in having the saloon men of the state opposed to them in their fight for the suffrage. This fact alone will make them many votes.

## SID J. COFFEE PRESIDENT OF SATTE FAIR DIRECTORS

Sid J. Coffee of Missoula, was elected president of the State Fair board at Helena last week. He was a director last year and it is to be hoped he will have a better exhibit from Missoula county next time while he is president than he had last year while only a director. Visitors from Missoula county were reluctant to answer from what county they were from when the only exhibits from Missoula county were a few carnations, entered by Charles Dallman, a plate of apples from some unknown Orchard Home citizen, and the personal exhibit made by N. S. Wood of Ravalli.

## WILL COMPLETE EAST SIDE ROAD BEFORE QUITTING

The report comes from Flathead county that the board of county commissioners have decided to complete the east shore road along the lake before quitting work. They have a number of convicts now engaged in this work and will continue them on the job until the road is built. At last accounts there was only a short stretch, from seven to nine miles, unfinished, and the work is progressing rapidly.

This road will be an inducement to tourists to pass this way when it is finished and it will shorten the time between Missoula and Kalispell almost one full day. From Ronan the road will be easily accessible, as there will be two routes one could take to get to the new road either one of which will be good. The new road is being made full 60 feet wide and there are no hills to speak of from the extreme southern extremity of the lake to Big Fork, and this alone will be of great convenience to autoists in taking their summer trips and vacations. It will be especially attractive to world's fair tourists who contemplate an auto trip across the continent and will enable them to visit both parks on their westward journey.

## Merry Minstrels

There will be a minstrel show at the opera house on Tuesday, March 10, the proceeds to go to the base ball fund. There is a deficit left as a legacy from last year and an effort is to be made to pay it off. Every lover of the national game should get in and boost for the show as it may mean more of the sport here again this year.

The show starts at 8 p. m., sharp, and a big dance will follow the performance. Tickets 25c and 50c.